

**REMARKS**

The Office Action of October 28, 2004 has been reviewed and considered. In the Office Action, claims 23, 29-32 and 36 were indicated to include allowable subject matter. Claims 21, 22, 24-28, 33-5, 37, 52, 61 and 62 were rejected.

Claims 21, 22, 25, 27-29, 33 and 52 have been amended. Claim 23 has been cancelled. Claims 63-68 have been added. Claims 21, 22, 24-37, 52 and 61-68 are pending. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 25-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth in the Office Action. Claims 25, 27-29 and 33 have been amended to remove any indefiniteness that may have existed in claims 25-35. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 21, 22, 24-28, 37 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,005,387 to Pelton that discloses a tapering mechanism including a plurality of moveable pistons that form a first positioning system. The patent is asserted to also disclose a second positioning system including the piston 81 and a related housing 77.

Claim 21 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 23. Specifically, claim 21 has been amended to recite that each moveable piston comprises (1) at least one slot extending in the direction of movement of the pistons and (2) a channel along its face for delivering fluid from the fluid openings in the cylindrical housing to between adjacent pistons. The patent to Pelton clearly does not teach such pistons in the recited multi-stroke cylinder. Therefore, the patent to Pelton does not anticipate claim 21 and the claims depending from claim 21. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 52 and 62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,005,387 to Pelton that discloses the tapering mechanism discussed above. Claim 52 has been amended to recite a fluid introduction plate positioned at a first end of said housing. This fluid introduction plate has a plurality of fluid introduction openings through which fluid can enter the multi-stroke cylinder (see Figure 29B and related text of the instant application). Each of the fluid introduction openings of the plate is in fluid communication with a respective one of the openings in the inner wall of the housing, as recited in claim 52. Claim 66 recites a similar fluid introduction plate.

The patent to Pelton does not disclose that the tapering mechanism includes such a fluid introduction plate. Also, the prior art does not provide any teaching or suggestion to modify the tapering mechanism of Pelton to include the recited fluid introduction plate that has separate holes in fluid communication with respective openings in the cylindrical housing, as recited. Therefore, the modification suggested in the Office Action would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because the resulting combination would not arrive at the multi-stroke cylinder recited in the pending claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 21, 33-35, 37 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,484,603 to Audemar in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,005,387 to Pelton. Claim 21 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of original claim 23. Accordingly, claim 21 is allowable over the combination of Audemar and Pelton. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Additionally, the combination of publications asserted in the outstanding rejections fails to make the recited claims obvious for, as discussed above, the prior art does not provide

Appln. No.: 10/718,556  
Office Action dated October 28, 2004  
Amendment dated February 28, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 003888.00002

motivation for modifying the patent of Audemar or the patent to Pelton to arrive at the multi-stroke cylinders recited in the pending claims.

For the reasons set forth above, claims 21, 22, 24-37, 52 and 61-68 are allowable over the prior art. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If any questions or issues remain, the resolution of which the Examiner feels would be advanced by a conference with Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees relating to this matter to Deposit Account 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 28, 2005

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